



MUSEUMS & HISTORICAL SITES GUIDE

Erie County, Pennsylvania



Erie Zoo

Located in the northwest corner of the state, Erie County creates Pennsylvania's iconic "chimney." Its 76 miles of shoreline along Lake Erie contributes to the area's abundance of natural and cultural resources, which include botanical

gardens, lighthouses, historic homes and one-room schoolhouses, trains, and more.

Whether you're here for a day trip or longer, we invite you to explore the museums and historic sites of Erie County.

Hours & Admissions: Hours vary from site to site. Please visit websites or contact sites directly for current hours, as they are subject to change.

Sites with admission fees are indicated by and sites with free admission are indicated by .

Contact sites directly for current hours.



Create
YOUR
adventure

through Erie County, PA!

Archives & Research Centers

Historic Sites

Historic & Scenic Routes

Museums & Historical Societies

Sites with Living Collections



Erie Yesterday is a consortium of Erie County, PA cultural/heritage organizations and individuals passionate about local history. Together, we promote awareness of the history, historic sites, archives, and museums of Erie County, provide a unified voice for the heritage community, and create opportunities for member organizations to collaborate.

Archives & Research Centers

1 Burleigh Legacy Alliance

1505 State St., Erie, PA (mailing address only)

(814) 273-8957 burleighlegacyalliance.org

The Burleigh Legacy Alliance was created to revive the legacy of Erie-born Harry T. Burleigh as a baritone singer, composer, role model, arranger, champion of African American traditional music, and artist of the Harlem Renaissance and celebrate the contributions he made to the music of America and the world. Sites and historic markers connected to Burleigh's legacy are incorporated into the countywide African Americans in Erie County: A Trail of Shared Heritage (www.sharedheritage.org).

2 The Erie Society for Genealogical Research

356 W. 6th St., Erie, PA

(814) 454-1813 genealogyerie.org

groups/ESGRPA

Located at the Hagen History Center, ESGR specializes in the study of family history. This volunteer organization offers classes, speakers, and information to those wanting to explore their family heritage. ESGR also focuses on the preservation of genealogy and historical resources located within the Erie area.

3 Heritage Room, Erie County Public Library

160 E. Front St., Erie, PA

(814) 451-6900 erielibrary.org

The Heritage Room offers a treasure trove of local history and genealogy resources, including newspapers, yearbooks, historic maps and atlases, and vertical files on local people, places, and events. Staff compile research aids on many topics and can help researchers locate information on specific ethnic groups. Access to digital newspapers, Family Search affiliate collections, and genealogy databases is free onsite at the library.

4 Penn State Behrend Archives

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, 4951 College Dr., Erie, PA

(814) 898-6106

libraries.psu.edu/about/libraries/john-m-lilley-library/penn-state-behrend-archives

Located in the John M. Lilley Library, the Penn State Behrend Archives consists of three distinct collections: the Hammermill Paper Company Collection, the Behrend Family Collection, and the Penn State Behrend Collection.



Historic Sites

5 Bicentennial Tower - Dobbins Landing

Foot of State St., Erie, PA

(814) 455-6055 porterie.org/bicentennial

There is no better vantage point to view what makes Erie the "gem" of Lake Erie. This 187-foot steel tower took two years to build. Its construction was part of the \$3.1 million Dobbins Landing renovation project and the 1995 bicentennial celebration of the City of Erie.

6 Erie Cemetery

2116 Chestnut St., Erie, PA

(814) 459-2463 eriecemetaryassoc.com

Over 50,000 people have been laid to rest in the 75-acre Erie Cemetery since it opened in 1851. It is the final resting place of Erie's "Who's Who," including military heroes, entrepreneurs, politicians, inventors, musicians, and athletes.

7 Hope Cemetery

10217 Meadville St., Cranesville, PA

ForTheLoveofaCannon

Founded in 1892, Hope Cemetery is the final resting place for more than 300 military veterans, who are memorialized by a Spanish American War era cannon known as "Old George." The cannon was brought to Albion from Savannah, Georgia by Civil War veteran George Baird. It was restored by the Albion Veterans of Foreign Wars and rededicated in 2013.

8 Perry Monument

Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA

(814) 833-7424

dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/PresqueIsleStatePark

Located on Misery Bay in Presque Isle State Park, Perry Monument commemorates Erie's role in the War of 1812. The monument is named for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, who successfully commanded a fleet of nine ships - six of which were built in Presque Isle Bay - against the British on September 10, 1813 at Put-in-Bay, Ohio. The 101-foot obelisk was commissioned by the Perry Memorial Commission of the State of Pennsylvania and dedicated September 10, 1926.

9 Presque Isle Light Station & Erie Land Lighthouse

Presque Isle State Park & 2 Lighthouse St., Erie, PA

(814) 833-3604 presqueislelighthouse.org

Presque Isle Light Station operates tours and visits at two of Erie's lighthouses. The Presque Isle Lighthouse, completed in 1873 and still a working aid to navigation, is in Presque Isle State Park. Erie Land Lighthouse, built in 1867, sits along the bluffs in the City of Erie and served as an aid to navigation until 1899. Both are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The North Pier Light is not open to the public for visitation but is visible from the Erie Land Lighthouse. All three lights underline the people and places that make up Erie's maritime heritage.

Historic & Scenic Routes

10 Great Lakes Seaway Trail

fhwaapps.fhwa.dot.gov/byway/

The Great Lakes Seaway Trail, formerly named and commonly known as the Seaway Trail, is a 518-mile National Scenic Byway running along the shorelines of New York and Pennsylvania. The Seaway Trail follows Route 5 and Alternate Route 5 in Erie County.



Route 6 Heritage Corridor, Corry, PA
Photo credit: Connie Rose

11 Pennsylvania Route 6 Heritage Corridor

PA Route 6 Alliance, 11 W. Main St., Galeton, PA
(814) 435-7706 PAroute6.com

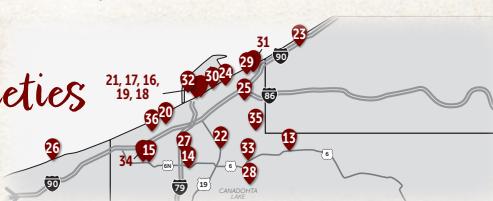
Named by National Geographic as "one of America's most scenic drives," US Route 6 in Pennsylvania is the heart of the American Dream. This magical and tranquil highway along the Keystone State's northern tier is 400-plus miles of history and heritage, small-town culture, friendly people, and wondrous sights too often forgotten. Route 6 travels through the southern portion of Erie County, which is one of 11 counties included in the heritage area.

12 Washington's Trail

310 E. Grandview Ave., Zelienople, PA

(866) 856-8444 washingtonstrail.org

Washington's Trail is a driving route through western Pennsylvania that commemorates young George Washington's first military and diplomatic journey taken 1753 to 1754. The route is indicated by historic markers and follows major roads, though there are alternate historic or scenic routes suggested which may more closely align with Washington's travel. In December 1753, Washington spent five days at the French Fort sur la Rivière aux Boeufs at present-day Waterford, Erie County.



Museums & Historical Societies

13 Corry Area Historical Society

945 Mead Ave., Corry, PA

(814) 664-4749 corryareahistoricalociety.org

The city of Corry began as an important railroad junction during Pennsylvania's oil boom in the 1860s. Exhibits include artifacts from all eras of the city's history. A 1930s Climax steam locomotive that was made in Corry and used for logging is a visitor favorite.

14 Edinboro Area Historical Society

126 Water St., Edinboro, PA

(814) 734-6109 edinborohistory@gmail.com eahs.pa

Located in the Doucette House, an 1861 Italianate mansion. Gift Shop on first floor, exhibits and archives on the second floor. The Society publishes *The Fountain*, an annual history magazine, and hosts local history presentations open to the public.

15 Elk Creek Township Historical Society

10410 High St., Albion, PA

echistoricalsoociety@gmail.com ECT Historical Society

The Little Church on the Hill was built in 1855. Today, it serves as the home of the Elk Creek Township Historical Society and is used for community events and concerts, including their monthly Coffee House.

16 Erie Art Museum

20 E. 5th St., Erie, PA

(814) 459-5477 erieartmuseum.org

The Erie Art Museum is one of the region's great cultural treasures. Visitors can choose from 8-10 concurrent exhibitions so everyone can find art that appeals to them no matter what their age or interest.

17 Erie County Historical Society - Hagen History Center & Battles Museums

356 W. 6th St., Erie, PA

(814) 454-1813 eriehistory.org

With roots as the Erie Public Museum that started in 1898 and the Erie County Historical Society (1903), the organization has been renamed the Hagen History Center after its benefactor Thomas B. Hagen. The campus now includes the Watson-Curtze Mansion (1892); the Wood-Morrison House (1858); a carriage house, a state-of-the-art 10,000-square-foot archives building; and a new exhibit building that includes the San Francisco office of Frank Lloyd Wright with additional galleries. The History Center also maintains the Battles Museums in Girard, which includes two 19th century homes, 130 acres of farmland, and nearly a mile of public walking trails.

18 Erie Maritime Museum/US Brig Niagara

150 E. Front St., Suite 100, Erie, PA

(814) 452-2744 eriemaritimemuseum.org

Housed in a retired Penelec waterfront power station, the Erie Maritime Museum welcomes you to experience Erie's rich maritime heritage, from the Navy's Battle of Lake Erie to Life-Saving Services and commercial activity and innovation on the Great Lakes. Home Port of the US Brig Niagara.

19 expERIEnce Children's Museum

420 French St., Erie, PA

(814) 453-3743 eriechildrensmuseum.org

expERIEnce world-class exhibits and hands-on activities at the newly expanded and remodeled Children's Museum. Special events and programs, along with educational classes and summer camps, are available throughout the year for guests of all ages.

20 Fairview Area Historical Society

4302 Avonia Rd., Fairview, PA

(814) 474-5855 fairviewhistory.org

The Society is headquartered in the Steuron House, a c.1838 "salt box" home. It is used as a museum, meeting site, and repository for artifacts, family histories, and other historical records relating to the Fairview area.

21

Firefighters Historical Museum

428 Chestnut St., Erie, PA

(814) 456-5969 firefightershistoricalmuseum.org

The Museum is housed in the old station #4, which was active from 1903-1974. Its two floors contain more than 1,500 items, including antique firefighting equipment and fire pumps, fire alarm systems, and uniforms. Also on display is a 1927 American LaFrance pumper.

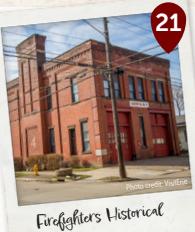


Photo credit: Vicki Grie

28 Lake Canadohta Historical Society

No physical address

canadohtahistory@gmail.com groups.lkcanhistory

Located less than two miles south of Erie County, the Society collects and preserves the history of Lake Canadohta. They offer special events and local history programs.

29 Lake Shore Railway Museum

31 Wall St. at Robinson, North East, PA

(814) 725-1911 lakeshorerailway.com

The Lake Shore Railway Museum is housed in a restored 1899 passenger train depot and features displays of 19th and 20th century railroadiana. GE and Heisler locomotives built in Erie are on exhibit, as well as a dining car, caboose, Pullman sleeping cars, and antique freight cars.

30 Lawrence Park Historical Society

4230 Iroquois Ave., Erie, PA

(814) 899-1505 Lawrence Park Historical Society

Lawrence Park is an "industrial village" developed by General Electric, beginning in 1911. It was designed by acclaimed planner John Nolen, whose plan was built out from 1916 to 1965. In 2018, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Society maintains a collection of local artifacts, house histories, photographs, blueprints, memoirs, school yearbooks, and scrapbooks from the community.

27



Hurry Hill Farm and Maple Syrup Museum

11424 Fry Rd., Edinboro, PA

(814) 572-1558 hurryhillfarm.org

Hurry Hill Farm is dedicated to preserving traditional methods of maple syrup production. It is the home of northwestern Pennsylvania's only Maple Museum and hosts an annual Taste & Tour each March.

31 North East Historical Society

25 Vine St., North East, PA

(814) 403-8709 northeasthistoricalsociety.org

NortheastHistoricalSociety

The museum features temporary displays about North East history. It is located in the 1880 North East Town Hall, which served as the town's fire hall from 1885 to 1996. The North East Arts Council is located on the second floor.

32 Tom Ridge Environmental Center

301 Peninsula Dr., Erie, PA

(814) 833-7424 trec.org

The Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) features a 75-foot observation tower, 7,000 square feet of exhibits, a Presque Isle orientation theater, a research wing, and Presque Isle Gallery and Gifts. Among the most impressive features of the center is a large-format theater, the first of its kind in the Pennsylvania state park system. The Big Green Screen theater is equipped with a four-story-high, 45-foot-wide screen that is used to show nature and environmental films.

33 Union City Historical Society

11 S. Main St., Union City, PA

(814) 438-7573 unioncitypa.us/museum

This interesting museum is housed in a 100-year-old three-story building and features collections that reflect local history from a rugged 1797 frontier settlement to today.

34 Valley School Museum

100 Harthan Way, Albion, PA

(814) 756-4116 Valley School Museum

This restored 1853 one-room schoolhouse was in use for 101 years before it was relocated to the campus of Northwestern School District. The schoolhouse is furnished with desks, flags, globes, and other school memorabilia from its long history.

35 Watsburg Historical Society

14438 Main St., Watsburg, PA

(814) 739-2952

The museum features several exhibits showing items from the area. There are exhibits that show the average American home in the mid-20th century, pictures of the floods and the fire of 1928, the original drum used in the Watsburg Drum & Bugle Corps, and much more.

36 West County Historical Association

34 Main St. W., Girard, PA

(814) 774-9683 girardborough.com

Housed in the Girard Borough Building, the Association maintains a collection of Marx Toys that were manufactured in Girard, as well as photographs, family histories, and other items documenting the history of this "canal town." Several exhibits are located in the social hall of the Borough Building.

Sites with Living Collections



37 Asbury Woods Nature Center

4105 Asbury Rd., Erie, PA

(814) 835-5356 asburywoods.org

Asbury Woods consists of 234 acres of fields, forests, and wetlands which offers over 5 miles of breathtaking trails that are free and open to the public every day from dawn until dusk. The Andrew J. Conner Nature Center at Asbury provides environmental education programs including school and group programs, public programs, special events, festivals, and summer nature camps.

38 Erie Zoological Society

423 W. 38th St., Erie, PA

(814) 864-4091 eriezoo.org

A comfortable walk through the Erie Zoo and Botanical Gardens takes about two hours. You'll enjoy visiting with nearly 400 animals in their collection, as well as the 11 beautiful gardens found throughout the park.

39 Goodell Gardens and Homestead

221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA

(814) 734-6699 goodellgardens.org

Formed by the estate of sisters Margaret and Carrie Goodell for use as an education-oriented botanical garden and community greenspace, the site houses a collection of botanical specimens and local history archives and is a Level II Accredited Arboretum through Arbnet. Visit the gardens and trails or attend one of the many programs offered.



Contact sites directly for current hours.